

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add Claim 13.

1. (Previously Presented) Chromium-free leather having a waterproofness, measured as penetration time according to DIN 53338, of at least 30 min characterized in that it has an Fe content of 1 to 6% by weight, based on dry weight, determined after ashing.
2. (Original) Chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that the penetration time according to DIN 53338 is at least 2 hours.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) Chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that it has an Si content of at least 0.2% by weight, based on dry weight, determined as silicate after ashing.
5. (Previously Presented) Chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that the leather contains a silicone.
6. (Previously Presented) Chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that the water vapour permeability, measured according to DIN 53333, is greater than 0.8 mg/cm²h.
- 7-9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently Amended) Process for the production of chromium-free leather ~~leathers~~ according to Claim 9-1, comprising treating ~~characterized in that~~ an iron-tanned leather having (i) a waterproofness, measured as penetration time according to DIN 53338, of at least 30 min and (ii) an Fe content of 1 to

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6% by weight, based on dry weight, determined after ashing is optionally retanned and is then treated with a silicone water repellent, which is a silicone.

11. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 13, wherein the leather that is treated is a pelt and the process further comprises subjecting the pelt to an acidic pretreatment before the pelt is treated with the silicone water repellent. Process according to Claim 10, characterized in that a pelt to be tanned is subjected, prior to iron tanning, to an acidic pretreatment.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (New) The process of Claim 10, wherein the process further comprises retanning the leather before treating the leather with the silicone water repellent.